

specimen was sent to Mr. Ridgway for examination, and was identified by him. The bird is at present mounted and in the collection of the Canadian Institute, Toronto.

In noting that the two birds were shot at almost exactly the same date in each year, it would appear that their habits of migrating are very regular, and that the absence of records for other years might be due to their great rarity and their retiring habits, for they certainly are very rare visitants, and possibly, as Mr. Cross says, "have wandered up here with our *Ardetta exilis*." A probably parallel case is that of the capture of an Audubon's Caracara (*Polyborus cheriway*), on the north shore of Lake Superior, not far from Port Arthur, on July 18, 1892, reported by Mr. George E. Atkinson, to the Natural History Society of Ontario; and another similar case is the taking of a Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*) near Toronto on April 8, 1892, reported by Dr. Brodie.

On comparing the two Toronto specimens of Cory's Bittern, the markings are identical, except that in the bird of 1893 there is a patch of white feathers on each leg, which is entirely wanting in the other, and that the dark under parts of the body proper in the 1893 bird are mixed with dark chestnut, while in the other this is almost entirely wanting. Dr. Coues's description agrees with each bird, excepting in the above particulars.—HUBERT H. BROWN, *Toronto, Ontario*.

[Mr. Brown has been kind enough to send me the bird above referred to for examination. On comparing it with four specimens in my collection from Florida, I find that it agrees very closely with a skin taken at Lake Flirt by Capt. Menge and referred to by Mr. Scott (Auk, IX, 1892, p. 142) under the catalogue number "11,451." The Toronto bird is a trifle the darker on the back, and the chestnut of its under parts is slightly richer, but in other respects the two specimens are almost exactly alike.—WILLIAM BREWSTER.]

Another *Megascops flammeolus* for Colorado.—In referring to Mr. Edwin M. Hasbrouck's article in the July 'Auk,' on 'The Geographical Distribution of the Genus *Megascops* in North America' I may say that I have a specimen of *Megascops flammeolus* which was shot July 17, 1884, in Bear Creek Cañon, near Evergreen P. O., Jefferson Co., Colorado. This swells the total of known records for the United States to seventeen, of which twelve are from Colorado.—HORACE G. SMITH, *Denver, Colo.*

The Road-runner in Kansas.—In August, 1892, Mrs. M. L. Smith noticed a strange bird about her home in Comanche County, this State. The bird was seen "every day or so," but it could not be caught. Finally, during a heavy snowstorm at Christmas time, the bird, which proves to be a Road-runner (*Geococcyx californianus*), was caught by a son of Mrs. Smith. The bird was kept in a large cage until the snow was gone and was then set at liberty. It remained about the premises, however, and "would come into the house," or would sit on a window-sill and receive its "rations," which were regularly given it until spring. The rations

comprised "fresh meat, mice, and boiled egg." In the spring (1893) "it commenced cooing, and sometimes would be gone over night. It roosted in a large outbuilding, and "for fear of losing it," writes Mrs. Smith, "we put a screen to the door and have it confined now" (May 23, 1893).

Col. N. S. Goss in his 'Revised Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas' (1886) states that two Road-runners were seen in 1884 near the western line of the State, and says: "I feel confident that they occasionally breed in the southwestern corner of the State, a natural habitat for the birds." The occurrence here noted is the only one, excepting the one referred to by Col. Goss, which has been so far recorded for Kansas.—VERNON L. KELLOGG, *Lawrence, Kansas.*

Two Corrections.—In an article which appeared in the July number of 'The Auk' I described at some length a peculiar process of regurgitation employed by the Flicker in feeding its young, believing—and indeed remarking at the time—that the habit was unknown or at least unrecorded. It seems, however, that it had been previously observed by Mrs. Olive Thorne Miller who published an account of it in 1890 in the 'Atlantic Monthly,' the article being afterwards (in 1892) republished in a collection of essays entitled 'Little Brothers of the Air.'

It is a pity that writers like Mrs. Miller—gifted with rare powers of observation and blessed with abundant opportunities for exercising them—cannot be induced to record at least the more important of their discoveries in some accredited scientific journal, instead of scattering them broadcast over the pages of popular magazines or newspapers, or ambushing them in books with titles such as that just quoted. But an opportunity for delivering a properly frank and telling homily on this sad evil is unfortunately denied me on the present occasion, for some one of these writers might be unkind enough to point the moral of a second admission which I am about to make, viz., that my announcement, in the last number of 'The Auk,' of the capture in Georgia, by Mr. Worthington, of two specimens of the Ipswich Sparrow, proves to have been anticipated in a previous issue (Vol. VII, April, 1890, pp. 211, 212) of *the same journal*. It is needless to say that this fact had quite escaped my memory—as it had also, apparently, that of our usually vigilant editors—and I was further thrown off my guard by Mr. Worthington's statement that, as far as he was aware, his birds had never been reported. This assurance—unquestionably given in good faith—affords a striking as well as amusing instance of the fallibility of human memory, for the record just cited was made by *Mr. Worthington himself*.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

The Number of Ribs in Cypseloides.—The occurrence of a rudimentary seventh pair of ribs is so common among Swifts that I have long been looking for a species in which the normal number of ribs should be seven pairs. Apparently this looked-for species has at last been found in the western Cloud Swift (*Cypseloides niger*), for four specimens of this bird recently